



City of Charleston
South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Immediate Release: July 8, 2009

**GROUND BREAKING FOR
ARTHUR W. CHRISTOPHER COMMUNITY CENTER**

The ground breaking ceremony for the new Arthur W. Christopher Community Center was held at 265 Fishburne Street on Wednesday, July 8th 2009 at 1:45pm.

The Arthur W. Christopher Community Center will be a 24,000 sq. ft. multi-use recreation facility located at Harmon Field adjacent to the existing Herbert Hasell Aquatic Center. The community center will provide recreational spaces, a large gymnasium, multipurpose rooms, laundry, shower facilities, administrative offices, a commercial kitchen and a small library. The Center will also serve as a central location for various community services including community outreach, summer camps, after school programs and educational programs.

The Community Center will be one of the first state projects to be built using the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and will be the first project by the City of Charleston using these funds. The estimated cost for this project is \$5.7 million dollars and is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2010.

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. said "The construction of the Arthur W. Christopher creates jobs for our hard working citizens and provides a brand new, state of the art facility where valuable services can be provided for the residents of our community. This project is an excellent example of the City of Charleston using federal money to help better our community and create jobs for the citizens of Charleston."

The construction of this center will create approximately ninety-eight new jobs. The project has 21% participation of minority and women-owned subcontracting companies. The contractual/employment opportunities that represent the minority and women-owned businesses for the construction of this community center include; painting, landscaping, framing, flooring and masonry, and other professional services.

This building will have a highly efficient, low impact design that will be a model of energy conservation. The building is seeking to become the City of Charleston's first LEEDS Gold Certified facility. The design incorporates highly efficient lighting and mechanical systems to minimize energy usage. Natural light is utilized wherever

possible to supplant or supplement the need for artificial lighting. Paints and other finishes have been selected for their environmental friendliness. This building will serve as a prototype for future city projects for which the goal will also be LEED Certified.

FOR MORE INFO:

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